

Miller to Hear Housing Bills Protests Apr. 10

Governor Sets Date for Discussion of Lockwood Measures Affecting Rental Conditions in New York

Other Acts on Schedule

Realty Interests and Undermyer To Be Present at Conference in Albany

ALBANY, March 25.—Governor Miller announced today that he will hold hearings April 10 on the Lockwood housing bills passed by the Legislature. The hearings are to start at noon. The bills on which arguments are to be heard are the order in which they will come up follow:

Permitting life insurance companies to engage in construction of model tenements containing apartments which would rent at not more than 89 per cent of net room.

Extending the rent laws until February 15, 1924. The statutes would otherwise expire this fall.

Providing for the return of jury fees to tenants in rent actions where the cases have not been tried separately.

Amending the act authorizing cities to exempt from local taxes new buildings used exclusively for dwelling purposes. The change would include buildings on which construction is started prior to April 1, 1923.

Providing that thirty days' notice of increase of rent must be given and that the value of a building shall be presumed to be its assessed value for the purpose of determining fair rental value.

Sub-Contract Bill Up

Permitting the City of New York to take over sub-contracts in cases where the principal contractor defaults.

Placing rate-making associations under the supervision of the State Superintendent of Insurance. The measure provides that in fixing rates, profits and losses covering the preceding five-year period shall be taken into consideration. The same applies to reinsurance risks, both within and without the state. These two provisions were objected to by Samuel Undermyer, counsel to the Lockwood committee, who characterized them as "loose" until he was informed by Governor Miller that they had been written into the bill at a conference the Governor had with Senator Charles C. Lockwood, chairman of the housing committee, and Speaker H. Edmund Machold of the Assembly.

The hearing on these bills were requested by the United Real Estate Owners' Association, the New York Real Estate Board and the Harlem Property Owners' Association. Samuel Undermyer and Senator Lockwood have said they will come to Albany to defend the bills.

Other hearings announced by the Governor, besides those on the housing bills, include the Knight mental deficiency bill, which is vigorously opposed by Welfare Commissioner Colver of New York City, who brands it as a menace to personal freedom in that it, as he says, opens the way for all sorts of abuses. Proponents and opponents of this measure will have an opportunity to lay their views before the Governor on Friday, April 7.

Other Scheduled Hearings

Hearings are also scheduled on the following bills:

Authorizing the state highway commissioner to check up on the weight and width of motor trucks to see that the law governing these matters is not violated, Wednesday, April 5.

Permitting up-state cities to enter

into service-at-cost contracts with street railroad corporations, Thursday, April 6.

Providing for the licensing of real estate dealers and salesmen in cities and in Westchester and Nassau counties, Saturday, April 8.

Establishing juvenile courts as parts of existing county courts. This bill is part of Governor Miller's welfare program, Saturday, April 8.

The two Simpson bills increasing salaries of county detectives in the Kings County District Attorney's office and providing pay increases for other employees in that office, Tuesday, April 11.

Black Japanese Rats Evict Brown Brothers

Rodent Hunt in Long Island City Reveals New Arrivals Have Run Out Old Breeds

Matthew Green, chief inspector of the Queens Health Bureau, who completed yesterday his task of eradicating rats from the Ravenswood and Astoria sections of Long Island City, says it is a black peril and not a yellow peril that comes from Japan and that it already is here.

"All of the rats we caught," he said, "are known as the Japanese or black rat. Rats of this species have about exterminated other rats."

"Some years ago brown rats that had been harried in Belgium came to this country in ships. They were more vicious than our native gray rats and the gray rats passed out in front of them."

"Not so long ago ships brought some of the Japanese or black rats. They are larger and more vicious than any other kind and have almost destroyed the brown rats. They do not fear to attack human beings."

Upstate Toll Bridge Freed

Announcement was made in Port Jervis yesterday that the toll bridge over the Delaware River between there and Matamoras, Pa., is now free. For fifty years fees had been charged to pedestrians and operators of vehicles.

The Rev. C. A. McHugh, of Matamoras, was the first person to cross the bridge after it was freed. He was active in the campaign to have the Interstate Bridge Commission buy the bridge from its private owners and make it free.

The bridge is used by many New York City tourists who motor through Orange County on week ends. The deeds, transferring the bridge from its private owners to the commission, have just been filed in Goshen and in Milford, Pa. It is said that the two states paid altogether \$153,250. The first bill to free it was introduced in Albany six years ago by former Senator Stivers, of Orange County.

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Then there were lots of slick horses some black and some white and one of them danced keeping regular time to the music and some of them raced around the ring and bucked a fellow over his head and I think I'll learn to ride one of those circus horses. It must be lots easier than going on assignments the way your Pop does and mine does nothing but sit in a office all day and read newspapers.

Well I can't remember what happened after the horses because just then my uncle came out from the back of the circus and whispered to my father and said we could come with him and feed the lions. Gee, I felt grand walking right into the back of the circus like that with everybody wondering where we were going. And when we got out there were two big men, the same that were in the parade and they were eating ice cream cones and they said they ate sixteen every afternoon between the acts but I think they were joking me.

And then we came to the cage where the lions were and they were crouching in the back of their cage and my Uncle Fernando that brought them all the way from Africa stuck a big hunk of meat in their cage and they growled but they gobbled it all up quick, and then my Uncle Fernando said did I want to feed them some more, and so I stuck another piece of meat in between the bars only he made me put it on the end of a shovel and stick it in that way. He said they would not bite him because they knew him but they were afraid of strangers. Your friend, PINKEY.

Mr. Jack Edwards, Corona, Long Island. Friend Jack?

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Your didn't know I had an uncle Fernando in Africa did you Jack. Well neither did I but it was just last week my Ma got a letter from him saying he was her kid brother and would she forgive the way he ran away from home and broke her mother's heart and he had just come back from Africa and was bringing a whole ship full of tigers and lions.

My mother said he couldn't bring those lions and tigers to her house, but my Pa said he wouldn't want to, and anyway he'd go to Madison Square Garden and see if he was for flushing the way he always used to.

You needn't think your so smart going to the rehearsal of the circus because anybody can do that that knows Dexter Fellows when it doesn't cost nothing. But I was to the circus yesterday when it opened, and I sat in a box that would have cost three dollars only my Uncle Fernando that brought the lions from Africa got it cheap. There was lots of classy kids all around me, buying peanuts like everything and sassing their governesses but I could see they was scared of the lions just the same.

Well I'll try and tell you what the real circus looks like Jack, when the electric lights are lit and the band plays. The clowns all had on span clean white suits and the lady acrobats had on shiny red velvet dresses and the horses that were in the revolving tableaux tossed their tales and one of the girls giggled. I saw her. But the dogs were slick. Gee, wish I had a dog like that one the program calls Chiquita.

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Pinkey Sees the Real Circus in Glory of First Performance

Writes Jack Edwards, Who Only Witnessed Rehearsal, and Tells of the Crowds at the Garden and How He Fed Raw Meat to Hungry Lions

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Dr. Prince Compares Ghost of Peebles With Plesiosaurus

Antagonish Explorer Sniffs at Both; Wouldn't Believe 'Cluck, Cluck' by Man Was Message of Departed Hen

Dr. Walter Franklin Prince was unimpressed yesterday by the announcement from the spirit world, via the ghost of Dr. James Martin Peebles, that there is no rheumatism in heaven. Dr. Prince, in excellent training for this sort of thing after his recent success in hunting down the ghost of Antigone, was inclined to pooh-pooh the idea that Peebles's ghost was anywhere near that dinner in Los Angeles.

"I am asked," said Dr. Prince yesterday, "what I think of this claim that the late Dr. Peebles was present at his posthumous birthday banquet in Los Angeles and talked through a medium. I do not think anything of it except that it is entirely without evidence."

"It is from my point of view exactly parallel to an argument which might be urged in the claim that the plesiosaurus still exists in the tropical forest. That is a somewhat astonishing claim, for the species was supposed to be dead as Julius Caesar, somewhat before Julius's time."

"But if any evidence exists that the plesiosaurus survives it is worth while to send out an investigating expedition as I understand is being done. But the members of the expedition, if they have an ounce of scientific spirit, would not pay any attention to the claim of an African savage at an African religious ceremony that he knew the plesiosaurus was near because he smelt him or heard him."

"All the evidence of Peebles's presence was that a medium said that he was there and professed to give a commonplace message that any one could give. For people to believe such a claim on no evidence at all is a pure act of faith, a feat of credulity. I would as soon be convinced that a dead hen is present because a man says, 'Cluck, cluck,' and declares it is a message from the hen."

Dr. Prince yesterday was in the city for a few days on his way to his home in the Catskills. He is a prominent New York City resident, and is soon to consolidate into one large village as a result of a special election just held there by voters of the three places.

It was announced yesterday that the official canvass of the ballots showed 148 voters for the merger and only 58 opposed to it. The necessary legal steps to perfect the consolidation will be taken at once.

The new village probably will be called Cornwall. It contains, among other summer homes, those of Mrs. James Stillman and Dr. Lyman Abbott. The New York Military Academy also is located there. One of the reasons for consolidation was to reduce expenses of government and cut the tax rate.

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